

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. A method for porting a telephone number, comprising:  
connecting a network interface device to a first telephone service provider network, a second telephone service provider network, and to at least one user communications device;

remotely controlling said network interface device, via the second telephone service provider network, to transfer a user telephone number, previously used for voice communications via the first telephone service provider network, from the first telephone service provider network to the second telephone service provider network;

wherein said step of remotely controlling includes remotely controlling said network interface device to switch from communications lines interconnected with the first telephone service provider network to communications lines interconnected with the second telephone service provider network to provide voice communications service for the user via the user communications device; and

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first telephone service provider is an incumbent local exchange service provider and the second telephone service provider is a competitive local exchange service provider that provides fixed wireless communications services to the user.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said network interface device includes a remote unit, and wherein the remote unit is interconnected to an antenna for providing a fixed wireless communications path to the competitive local exchange service provider network.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said telephone service provider uses a digital broadband wireless air interface.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said network interface device is interconnected to the user communications device via inside wiring of a user facility.

R.12b 6 ~~7~~. The method of claim 1, wherein said network interface device is interconnected to the communications device via a plurality of communications lines allowing transfer of a plurality of user telephone numbers from the first network to the second network, and for providing voice communications service to the user via the second network before the transferring of the user telephone number has been completed.

R.12b 7 ~~8~~. The method of claim 1, wherein said circuitry includes home phone network alliance circuitry to allow said data communications service.

R.12b 8 ~~9~~. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of remotely controlling reduces the time period for the transfer of the user telephone number from the time period required using the first telephone network for controlling the transfer of the user telephone number.

R.12b 9 ~~10~~. The method of claim 1, wherein the network interface device includes a network communications device for communicating with the second telephone service provider network, and wherein the network communications device portion is located inside of a user facility and the remaining portion of the network interface device is substantially located outside of the a user facility.

R.12b 10 ~~11~~. The method of claim 1, wherein said network interface device includes circuitry for performing the transfer of the user telephone number, reducing interference from the first telephone service provider network to allow data communications service for the user via the second telephone service provider network, and for providing voice communications service via the first telephone service provider network until the user telephone number is transferred to the second telephone service provider network.

R.12b 11 ~~12~~. A method for porting a telephone number, comprising:  
receiving control signals, remotely transmitted from a second telephone service provider network, to transfer a user telephone number, previously used for voice communications via the first telephone service provider network, from a first telephone service provider network to the second telephone service provider network; and

switching, in response to the received control signals, communications lines interconnected with the first telephone service provider network to communications lines interconnected with the second telephone service provider network to provide voice communications service for the user via the user communications device.

R.12b 12 ~~13~~. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

providing data communications service for the user via the second telephone service provider network by reducing interference from the first telephone service provider network; and

providing voice communications service via the first telephone service provider network until the user telephone number is transferred to the second telephone service provider network.

R.12b 13 ~~14~~. An apparatus for porting a telephone number, comprising:

a network interface device interconnected to a first telephone service provider network, a second telephone service provider network, and to at least one user communications device;

wherein said network interface devices includes circuitry for receiving control signals, remotely transmitted from the second telephone service provider network, for transferring a user telephone number, previously used for voice communications via the first telephone service provider network, from the first telephone service provider network to the second telephone service provider network; and

wherein said network interface device includes circuitry for switching communications lines interconnected with the first telephone service provider network to communications lines interconnected with the second telephone service provider network to provide voice communications service for the user via the user communications device.

R.12b 14 ~~15~~. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said network interface device includes circuitry for performing the transfer of the user telephone number, reducing interference from the first telephone service provider network to allow

data communications service for the user via the second telephone service provider network, and for providing voice communications service via the first telephone service provider network until the user telephone number is transferred to the second telephone service provider network.

2.12b 15 ~~16~~. A system for porting a telephone number, comprising:

a second telephone service provider network that provides telephone service to a plurality of users as an alternative to a first telephone service provider network;

a network interface device interconnected to the first telephone service provider network, the second telephone service provider network, and to at least one user communications device;

wherein said network interface devices includes circuitry for receiving control signals, remotely transmitted from the second telephone service provider network, for transferring a user telephone number, previously used for voice communications via the first telephone service provider network, from the first telephone service provider network to the second telephone service provider network; and

wherein said network interface device includes circuitry for switching communications lines interconnected with the first telephone service provider network to communications lines interconnected with the second telephone provider network, and for providing voice communications service via the first telephone service provider network until the user telephone number is transferred to the second telephone service provider network.

2.12b 16 ~~17~~. The system of claim 16, wherein said network interface device includes circuitry for performing the transfer of the user telephone number, reducing interference from the first telephone service provider network to allow data communications service for the user via the second telephone service provider network, and for providing voice communications service via the first telephone service provider network until the user telephone number is transferred to the second telephone service provider network.

R-12b 17 18. A method for porting a user telephone number, comprising:  
 providing telephone service to a plurality of users as an alternative  
 telephone service provider network to a first telephone service provider  
 network;

connecting a network interface device to the first telephone service  
 provider network, the alternative network, and to at least one user  
 communications device;

remotely transmitting control signals to the network interface device for  
 transferring a user telephone number, previously used for voice  
 communications via the first telephone service provider network, from the first  
 telephone service provider network to the alternative provider network; and

wherein said step of remotely transmitting includes remotely transmitting  
 control signals to switch communications lines interconnected with the first  
 telephone service provider network to communications lines interconnected with  
 the alternative provider network, and to provide voice communications service  
 via the first telephone service provider network until the user telephone number  
 is transferred to the second telephone service provider network.